

# Deep stability

Product innovation, with a focus on the environment and increasing productivity remains top priority for global foundation equipment manufacturers, despite difficult market conditions. **Becca Wilkins** reports.

**M**anufacturers of foundations equipment are introducing new products which incorporate the latest technologies for enhancing machine productivity. New equipment and techniques must also be more environmentally-friendly and be able to work efficiently in increasingly challenging construction sites.

Speaking for IMT, Wilkins said, "Our philosophy during the financial crisis is to drive more in innovation because we think innovation is one of the most important things we can offer our customers. Engineering is our biggest strength and this makes it possible to innovate and produce new technologies and be a step ahead of our competitors."

The company unveiled a number of new products at its In-House exhibition held in the spring this year, the highlight of which was the new 300/300 special foundation construction crane, which was equipped at the show with a displacement wall crane. The company said the crane can power cranes and piling systems with its 700 kW power pack and is fitted with its own counterweight drilling facility.

Meanwhile, in January this year, Imt announced the 300/300 (30 hydraulic) crane designed to handle heavy duty piles and casing for use in off-shore applications such as wind farm projects – a growing application in the foundation industry according to IMT/In-House, who manage for Imt.

He said it is the company's biggest area of growth has been the big hammer market. "Although we have been in the hammer market for 30 years or so, we haven't really concentrated on off-shore building and the bigger hammer market, but we have now acquired a system internal hammer team in China to focus on the growth of these bigger hammers."

Despite being more environmentally friendly and versatile, the market for hydraulic hammers is still relatively new in some territories such as in North and South America, where contractors will tend to

use diesel hammers and air hammers, IMT/In-House added.

"So we are trying to get the hydraulic hammers into these markets now," he said.

## Environment and technology

According to IMT, the company is continuously trying to develop machines which are more environmentally friendly as well as being more productive. One way to achieve this is with the help of new technologies – an area which Christian Wittstein, the company's sales director for southern Europe and Africa, believes plays a key part in IMT's success.

Speaking at Imtcrane, he told IC: "One of things we want to show is that we not only have a lot of machines but also a lot of >

Italian company, IMT said its new drilling system, for seismic areas, enables one machine to prepare the ground with the soil mixing system as well as inserting up to 965 mm diameter steel tubes to reach depths of more than 40 m.

